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**Why Drug use In Sports Ruins the Sport?**  
  
Sports have always been a great activity for people of all ages. It is a great way to reduce stress, get exercise and just have a fun time. Sports do though start to become troublesome, when others start to cheat. Athletes have been known to always want to win and many go on long strides to achieve that. Steroids and drug use over the years have contributed to that and ruined the sports we love, but why do some athletes not play fair?   
  
  Simple, drug use can help athletes gain things like more muscle mass or increased oxygen which they could not get from anywhere else. This fact alone puts them on a completely different level from their competitors.  
  
Seth Phillips October 11th, 2012, 10:59am  
  
          When we begin to look at why drug use ruins sports, we start examine famous athletes who used drugs in their sports for success. The first athlete we began to examine is Ben Johnson who was an Olympic sprinter.  Ben Johnson set a moment in history by winning the 1988 Seoul Olympics in world record time.  However, Ben Johnson also abused the drug stanzolol.  Stanzolol caused Johnson to increase his muscle strength and make lean body mass, so Johnson could be quicker.  This alone helped Johnson be better than his competitors on the track and set a world record.  Johnson later stated he only abused the drug because others were doing it in his sport.   
  
            The next example is Jose Canseco, who was a former major league baseball player that hit 462 home runs from 1985-2001. However, Jose Canseco was on the drug “Human Chorionic Gonadotrophin” which contributed to this success.  Canseco said, that “Steroids made his baseball career possible and that it gave him size and strength.” This fact puts Canseco on a huge level compared to other baseball players who did not abuse drugs because it shows he achieved great things by simply cheating!    
  
          Another athlete who fits in well with these ‘law breakers” would be Bill Romanowski, who was previously a middle linebacker in the NFL.  Romanowski broke tons of bones and damaged many players earning him a rough reputation. Romanowski did though take the drug Human Growth Hormone and several not specified drugs which contributed to his massive size.  He said he did it because the competition was always so intense and he wanted to win!  Romonowski’s drug use made him a lot stronger. It made football somewhat not fair to other players who were hit from him because drugs helped him have an edge over other them.  The sports world becomes ruined when athletes cheat like this though.  Athletes work so hard for success. They try each day to get better and then when this stuff happens, it destroys sports. Fans always look up to their athletes for inspiration. When an athlete cheats though, fans might disown them or follow in their footsteps for same success. Regardless, drug use causes a huge problem not only to the players but also to the rest of the world who watches them.  The last athlete we are going to look at is Lance Armstrong who is notorious at lying and ruining a sport with drug use.   
  
  
    Lance Armstrong is most notably one of the best cyclists that have ever lived. However, Armstrong also cheated his way to success like the other athletes mentioned above. Armstrong admitted to Oprah that he took HGH, blood-doping, testosterone and other supplements to win. He said in an interview that “He didn't believe it was possible to win seven titles without drug use." Drug use in sports allowed Lance Armstrong to be faster and be able to keep his oxygen levels up so he could win races.  Cyclists other than Armstrong may have won races but, not as many as Armstrong.  Lance obviously was on another level than his competitors. Armstrong said, he did doping because he always wanted to win and never wanted to fail.         
  
            
  
In conclusion from looking at these four athletes, you can tell that drug use majorly helped them. My point of this article was to highlight certain athletes who cheated and show the comparison between how the drugs they took helped them and how it ruins the sport. Drug use in sports puts athletes at a huge advantage and destroys the sport.  The athlete’s life is also ruined from this epidemic because it shows they had to cheat in order to gain success.  Athletes may always continue to use steroids or drugs since it is so wide spread! However, it will continue to ruin the sport and cause shame to many players and fans.